

they strike up an unlikely friendship. Despite their differences, they see in each other the hidden scars that others can't, and they become companions. Josef confesses a long-buried and shameful secret—one that nobody else in town would ever suspect—and asks Sage for an extraordinary favor. If she says yes, she faces not only moral repercussions, but potentially legal ones as well. With her own identity suddenly challenged, and the integrity of the closest friend she's ever had clouded, Sage begins to question the assumptions and expectations she's made about her life and her family. When does a moral choice become a moral imperative? And where does one draw the line between punishment and justice, forgiveness and mercy? Jodi Picoult skillfully explores the lengths we will go in order to protect our families and to keep the past from dictating the future.

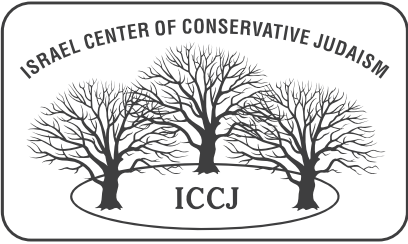
The Author



Jodi Picoult, 46, is the bestselling author of twenty-one novels. Picoult studied creative writing with Mary Morris at Princeton, and had two short stories published in Seventeen magazine while still a student. Realism—and a profound desire to be able to pay the rent—led Picoult to a series of different jobs following her graduation: as a technical writer for a Wall Street brokerage firm, as a copywriter at an ad agency, as an editor at a textbook publisher, and as an 8th grade English teacher - before entering Harvard to pursue a master's in education. She married Tim Van Leer, whom she had known at Princeton, and it was while she was pregnant with her first child that she wrote her first novel, *Songs of the Humpback Whale*.

In 2003 she was awarded the New England Bookseller Award for Fiction. She has also been the recipient an Alex Award from the Young Adult Library Services Association, sponsored by the Margaret Alexander Edwards Trust and Booklist, one of ten books written for adults that have special appeal for young adults; the Book Browse Diamond Award for novel of the year; a lifetime achievement award for mainstream fiction from the Romance Writers of America; Cosmopolitan magazine's 'Fearless Fiction' Award 2007; Waterstone's Author of the Year in the UK, a Vermont Green Mountain Book Award, a Virginia Reader's Choice Award, the Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award, and a Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award. She wrote five issues of the Wonder Woman comic book series for DC Comics. She and Tim and their three children live in Hanover, New Hampshire with two Springer spaniels, two rescue puppies, two donkeys, two geese, eight chickens, and the occasional Holstein.

Arlene Ratzabi
ICCJ Book Café



Israel Center of Conservative Judaism
167-11 73rd Avenue, Flushing, NY 11366 • Telephone: 718-591-5353



ICCJ Book Café



A project of the



The ICCJ Book Café is delighted to announce the books we will be discussing for the upcoming year plus our guest speaker program. All discussions will take place on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM with a light breakfast followed by the program. The theme for 2013-2014 is **Navigating Family Relationships and Finding Meaning.**

The fee for each program is \$5.00

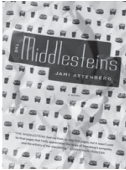
2013-2014 PROGRAM

Sunday, October 13, 2013, 10:00 AM

“The Middlesteins, a novel” by Jami Attenberg

The Book

For more than thirty years, Edie and Richard Middlestein shared a solid family life together in the suburbs of Chicago. But now things are splintering apart, for one reason; Edie's enormous girth. She's obsessed with food--thinking about it, eating it--and if she doesn't stop, she won't have much longer to live. When Richard abandons his wife, it is up to the next generation to take control. Through it all, they wonder: do Edie's devastating choices rest on her shoulders alone, or are others at fault, too? Jami Attenberg has written a powerful and engaging story of marriage, family, and obsession. The book explores the hopes and heartbreaks of new and old love, the yearnings of Midwestern America, and our devastating, fascinating preoccupation with food.



The Author



Jami Attenberg has written about sex, technology, design, books, television, and urban life for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Salon, Print, The Awl, The Hairpin, New York, Nylon, Details.com, Esquire.com, Babble, eMusic, The Rumpus, and others. She has contributed to numerous anthologies and also wrote *Wicked: The Musical: A Pop-up Compendium*. In 2013, she became Fiction Editor of Maura Magazine. Her debut collection of stories, *Instant Love*, was published by Crown/Shaye Areheart Books in 2006. She is also the author of two novels, *The Kept Man* and *The Melting Season*, both published by Riverhead Books. Her third novel, *The Middlesteins*, was published in October 2012 by Grand Central Publishing. It appeared on The New York Times bestseller list, and will be published in

England, Taiwan, Russia, Italy, France, Turkey, The Netherlands, Germany and Israel in 2013. It was also a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Fiction. She lives in Brooklyn, NY, where she fights crime in her spare time.

Sunday, December 15, 2013, 10:00 AM
“One Last Thing Before I Go: A Novel,” by Jonathan Tropper

The Book
Drew Silver has begun to accept that life isn’t going to turn out as he expected. His fleeting fame as the drummer for a one-hit wonder rock band is nearly a decade behind him. His ex-wife is about to marry a terrific guy. And his Princeton-bound teenage daughter Casey has just confided in him that she’s pregnant—because Silver is the one she cares least about letting down. So when Silver learns that he requires emergency life-saving heart surgery, he makes the radical decision to refuse the operation, choosing instead to spend what time he has left to repair his relationship with Casey, become a better man, and live in the moment—even if that moment isn’t going to last very long. As his exasperated family looks on, Silver grapples with the ultimate question of whether or not his own life is worth saving.



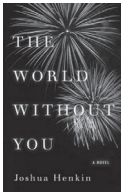
The Author
Jonathan Tropper is the international bestselling author of six novels: Plan B, The Book of Joe, Everything Changes, How to Talk to a Widower, This is Where I Leave you, and One last Thing Before I Go. He is also the co-creator and Executive Producer of the television show, Banshee, which premiered on Cinemax in January 2013. He lives in Westchester, New York with his three children and teaches writing at Manhattanville College.

Sunday, January 19, 2014, 10:00 AM
Guest Author Series – Joint Program with Sisterhood

Author
Anne Hosansky is the author of three books: “Widow’s Walk,” “Turning Toward Tomorrow,” and “Ten Women of Valor.” Her short stories and articles have been published in the US, Canada, England and Australia. Currently she has stories in “Evening Street Review” and “The William and Mary Review.” Wearing a “third hat” as a poet,” she has a poem in the latest issue of “Mobius Magazine.” Hosansky has been a speaker about coping with loss for major organizations including United Way, Hadassah, Cancer Care, National Council of Jewish Women, etc., and been interviewed on TV and radio around the country. A former actress, she’s a lively speaker! She’s led a writers’ workshop in New York for 25 years, and currently leads memoir writing workshops. Anne was a former member of ICCJ and the Conservative Synagogue of Jamaica Estates.

Sunday, February 2, 2014, 10:00 AM
“The World Without You, A Novel,” by Joshua Henkin

The Book
On July 4, 2005, the Frankel family is descending upon their beloved summer home in the Berkshires. But this is no ordinary holiday. The family has gathered to memorialize Leo, the youngest of the four siblings, an intrepid journalist and adventurer who was killed on that day in 2004, while on assignment in Iraq. The parents, Marilyn and David, are adrift in grief. Their forty-year marriage is falling apart. Clarissa,



the eldest sibling and a former cello prodigy, has settled into an ambivalent domesticity and is struggling at age thirty-nine to become pregnant. Lily, a fiery-tempered lawyer and the family contrarian, is angry at everyone. And Noelle, whose teenage years were shadowed by promiscuity and school expulsions, has moved to Jerusalem and become a born-again Orthodox Jew. And Thisbe—Leo’s widow and mother of their three-year-old son—has come from California bearing her own secret. This is a novel about sibling rivalries and marital feuds, about volatile women and silent men, and, ultimately, about the true meaning of family.

The Author
Joshua Henkin is the author of the novels “Matrimony,” a New York Times Notable Book, and “Swimming Across the Hudson,” a Los Angeles Times Notable Book. His new novel, “The World Without You,” has been named an Editors’ Choice Book by The *New York Times* and The *Chicago Tribune* and is the winner of the 2012 Edward Lewis Wallant Award for Jewish American Fiction and a finalist for the 2012 National Jewish Book Award. His short stories have been published widely, cited for distinction in Best American Short Stories, and broadcast on NPR’s “Selected Shorts.” He lives in Brooklyn, NY, and directs the MFA program in Fiction

Writing at Brooklyn College.

Sunday, March 23, 2014, 10:00 AM
“The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, A Novel,” by Rachel Joyce

Discussion will be led by Rabbi Robyn Fryer Bodzin
The Book
Harold Fry, a retired sales rep and beleaguered husband, passive observer of his own life--decides one morning to walk 600 miles across England to save an old friend. An unlikely hero, Harold wins us over with his classic antiheroism. Setting off on the long journey, he wears the wrong jacket, doesn’t have a toothbrush, and leaves his phone at home--in short, he is wholly, endearingly unprepared. But as he travels, Harold finally has time to reflect on his failings as a husband, father, and friend, and this helps him become someone we (and, more important, his wife Maureen) can respect. After walking for a while in Harold Fry’s very human shoes, the reader will gain important insights.



The Author
Rachel Joyce has written over twenty original afternoon plays for BBC Radio 4, and has created major adaptations for the Classic series and Woman’s Hour, as well as a TV drama adaptation for BBC2. In 2007 she won the Tinniswood Award for Best Radio Play. Joyce moved to writing after a twenty-year career in theatre and television, performing leading roles for the RSC, the Royal National Theatre, The Royal Court and Cheek by Jowl; and winning a Time Out Best Actress Award and the Sony Silver. She currently lives in Gloucestershire with her family.

Sunday, May 18, 2014, 10:00 AM
“The Storyteller,” by Jodi Picoult

The Book
Sage Singer is a baker who works through the night, preparing the day’s breads and pastries, trying to escape a reality of loneliness, bad memories, and the shadow of her mother’s death. When Josef Weber, an elderly man in Sage’s grief support group, begins stopping by the bakery,